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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities

FROM: Monica Groves Batiza, Legislative Associate

DATE: February 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Opposition to Assembly Bill 719 *MBB*

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) opposes Assembly Bill 719 (AB 719), relating to utility aid payments to towns and counties for production plants that generate electricity from wind power. Since 2003, each county in which a power production plant is located has received a utility aid payment based on the plant's megawatt capacity. In areas where a production plant is located in a town, counties receive two-thirds of the total amount paid back to them and towns receive one-third.

AB 719 reverses the current formula with respect to electricity generated from wind power and returns two-thirds payment to towns and only one-third to counties. This is yet another burden placed on counties that are asked to provide more services each year with less money to fund them. In 2009 alone, Fond du Lac County would stand to lose \$208,000 under this new formula.

WCA respectfully requests that you oppose AB 719 in its current form. We have been part of a productive and worthwhile dialogue with the Wisconsin Towns Association and the Public Service Commission on the issue of statewide regulations for large wind-generation facilities, and we urge a similar sort of discussion before changes are made to the utility aids formula that largely attempts to anticipate what promises to be a growing and important element in electrical generation.

Thank you for considering our comments. Please contact me if you have any questions.

# Zoning in Unincorporated Areas in Wisconsin

